

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-04 PRS-01 SAM-01 INR-10 DRC-01 RSC-01

EB-11 PM-07 /062 W

----- 030378

R 251536Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

INFO USIA WASHDC

SECSTATE WASHDC 7866

UNCLAS OSLO 803

USIAC

EO 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: TRANSCRIPT ADMIRAL BAGLEY TELEVISION INTERVIEW IN OSLO

FOLLOWING IS FULL TRANSCRIPT OF ADMIRAL BAGLEY'S INTERVIEW WITH NORWEGIAN TELEVISION AS IT WAS BROADCAST ON EVENING NEWS FEBRUARY 22. THE INTERVIEW WAS CARRIED IN ENGLISH WITH SUBTITLES IN NORWEGIAN.

BEGIN TRANSCRIPT:

ANNOUNCER:(TRANSLATION FROM NORWEGIAN): THE CHIEF OF AMERICAN NAVAL FORCES IN EUROPE ADMIRAL BAGLEY IS IN OSLO. NORTH SEA OIL ACTIVITY AND ITS IMPORTANCE TO NORWAY'S STRATEGIC POSITION WERE AMONG TOPICS ADMIRAL BAGLEY DISCUSSED WITH NORWEGIAN DEFENSE MINISTER FOSTERVOLL. HERE IS ADMIRAL BAGLEY'S OPINION AS HE PRESENTED IT TO TELEVISION NEWS AFTER HIS MEETING WITH FOSTERVOLL.

ADMIRAL BAGLEY: WELL, I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT NORWAY'S STRATEGIC POSITION WAS VERY IMPORTANT EVEN WITHOUT THE OIL, BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF THE SOVIET OPERATIONS FROM THE NORTH AREA. ONE OF THE PURPOSES OF SEA POWER IS TO PROTECT SEA LINES OF COMMUNICATION TO ASSURE THAT EXTERNAL SUPPLY COMES TO NORWAY AND OTHER MEMBERS OF NATO. IT ALSO

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INCLUDES THE PROTECTION OF RESOURCES. OBVIOUSLY, INCREASED

OIL IN THE NORWAY REGION REPRESENTS INITIAL RESOURCES OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO NATO AND OBVIOUSLY THAT BROADENS THE SEA POWER TASK.

QUESTION: DOES THIS MEAN THAT THERE WILL BE A SHIFT IN DEPLOYMENT OF U.S. NAVAL FORCES FROM OTHER AREAS TO THE NORTH SEA OR THE NORTH ATLANTIC?

ADMIRAL BAGLEY: I THINK THAT IN THE CONSIDERATION OF THIS QUESTION, IT MIGHT FOLLOW THAT YOU'D HAVE TO GAUGE THAT REQUIREMENT AGAINST THE RESOURCES THAT ARE AVAILABLE. THE NAVY IS IN THE PROCESS NOW OF AN EXPEDITED MODERNIZATION WHICH INCLUDES A REDUCTION IN FORCES WHICH SINCE 1969 HAS TOTALLED SOME 400 SHIPS. SO IT'S MORE DIFFICULT THAN IT WAS BEFORE FOR US TO TAKE ON NEW COMMITMENTS. OBVIOUSLY, THOUGH, WE'LL DEAL WITH COMMITMENTS IN THE ORDER OF PRIORITY AND IT WILL GET VERY SERIOUS CONSIDERATION.

QUESTION: HASN'T THERE BEEN ANY MOVE OF UNITS FROM OTHER AREAS ALREADY?

ADMIRAL BAGLEY: THERE ARE NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGES.

QUESTION: DO YOU REGARD THE OIL RESOURCES IN THE NORTH SEA AS A PRIME TARGET IN TIME OF WAR?

ADMIRAL BAGLEY: I THINK IT'S REASONABLE TO SAY THAT ANY ENEMY WOULD STRIKE EARLY IN ANY CONFLICT TO REDUCE THE CAPABILITY OF HIS OPPONENT FOR EXTENDED OPERATIONS. THAT WOULD MEAN STRIKING AGAINST ALL RESOURCES VERY EARLY IN SUCH A WAR.

QUESTION: IS THE PROTECTION OF THE OIL RESOURCE SUFFICIENT TODAY?

ADMIRAL BAGLEY: I THINK THAT THESE OIL RESOURCES ARE SO NEW IN CONTEXT THAT THAT'S SOMETHING WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE INTO THE TOTAL CONTEXT OF WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO DEFEND. OBVIOUSLY, IT'S A NEW MATTER ON WHICH WE HAVE TO START OVER AGAIN.

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ANNOUNCER: THE INTERVIEWER WAS GEIR HELLESEN. VOTH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NAVAL FORCES, PETROLEUM, MILITARY VISITS, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974OSLO00803
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: OSLO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740211/aaaaakhe.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 FEB 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 FEB 2002 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <04 DEC 2002 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ITLES IN NORWEGIAN. BEGIN TRANSCRIPT
TAGS: MILI, OGEN, NO, (BAGLEY, WORTH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005